

## Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT TEL AVIV 1732 ACTION USINFO WASHDC SECSTATE  
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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION (51/77) PRESS REVIEW, MARCH 10, 77  
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1. SUMMARY: T.V., RADIO, PRESS CARRY FULL TEXT OF MID-EAST PORTION  
OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE, SUBMIT IT TO A CRITICAL  
ANALYSIS. CONSENSUS IS THE THE "CARTER PLAN" RESEMBLES THE  
"ROGERS PLAN," DRAWS ON BRZEZINSKI'S "BROOKINGS PAPER." LATTER  
SAID TO BE "THE MOVING FORCE" BEHIND PRESIDENT'S IDEAS. ISRAELI  
OFFICIALS BOTH IN WASHINGTON AND JERUSALEM SAID TO BE "STUNNED...  
UNPLEASANTLY SURPRISED" BY CARTER'S VIEWS. MEDIA IS A LITTLE  
LESS SO. END SUMMARY.

2. PREMIER RABIN TOLD ISRAELI T.V.'S RONEN THAT "THE U.S. HAS

COME SUBSTANTIALLY CLOSER TO ISRAEL'S POSITION ON THE NATURE OF PEACE. WHAT CARTER HAD TO SAY ON THE ISSUE OF THE POSSIBLE STATIONING OF ISRAELI FORCES OUTSIDE ISRAEL'S LEGAL BOUNDARIES, HAS NEVER BEFORE BEEN SAID BY AN AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION."

3. RADIO'S DEIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT KITAL FOUND PRESIDENT CARTER'S IDEAS, AS EXPRESSED IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE, CORRESPONDING TO WHAT ZBIGNIEW BREZINSKI TOLD FONMIN ALLON WHEN THE NSC ADVISER VISITED ISRAEL. AT THE TIME ALLON WAS SAID TO HAVE TAKEN EXCEPTION TO THOSE IDEAS, SAYS KITAL.

4. MEDIA MAKES A POINT OF FACT THAT BREZINSKI HAD CALLED THE ISRAELI EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON SOON AFTER CARTER ENDED HIS PRESS CONFERENCE, AS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE HE WANTED TO ASSURE THE ISRAELIS THAT THE U.S. INTENDED TO ACT ONLY AS A GO-BETWEEN, NOT TO DETERMINE THE FINAL DETAILS OF AN EVENTUAL ACCORD. THOSE DETAILS SHOULD BE WORKED OUT BY THE PARTIES CONCERNED THEMSELVES. (NO SOURCES)

5. HA'ARETZ'S DIPLOMATIC WRITER GOLAN SAYS THAT "SENIOR SOURCES IN JERUSALEM EXPRESSED GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT, GRAVE CONCERN OVER CARTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENTS, TERMED THAT AS A 'REVIVAL OF THE ROGERS PLAN'\*THE SENIOR SOURCES ADDED THAT...FROM THE WAY THE VISIT STARTED, THE ADMINISTRATION WAS EXPECTED TO UNCLASSIFIED

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SHOW GREATER UNDERSTANDING TO THE NEED FOR SECURITY BORDERS. IF ONE LOOKS BEYOND THE SIGNS OF AFFECTION (SHOWED BY CARTER), ONE CAN FIND VERY LITTLE DEIPLOMATIC SUBSTANCE ISRAEL CAN BE HAPPY WITH."

6. MARGALIT FROM WASHINGTON (HA'ARETZ): CARTER SEEMS TO HAVE "COMBINED THE ROGERS PLAN WITH THE BROOKINGS DOCUMENT" IN AN APPARENT ATTEMPT "TO PACIFY THE ARABS." WRITER SAYS THAT CARTER'S CONTENTION THAT ISRAEL SHOULD ULTIMATELY BE SATISFIED WITH ONLY MINOR ADJUSTMENTS OF HER 1967 BORDERS, "SURPRISED AND IRKED ISRAELI OFFICIALS IN RABIN'S PARTY."

.7. POST'S BLITZER, ON THE OTHER HAND,SAYS THAT "ISRAEL OFFICIALS TRAVELLING WITH RABIN WERE RELUCTANT TO REACT DIRECTLY TO CARTER'S STATEMENT, WHICH TOOK THEM BY SURPRISE." BLITZER CALLS CARTER'S IDEAS "THE MOST DETAILED STATEMENT ON THE M E PROBLEM...OUT-LINING IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL HOW THE U.S. GOVERNMENT VIEWS THE SHAPE OF A FINAL ARAB-ISRAELI PEACE SETTLEMENT." THE PRESIDENT'S CONCEPT REMINDS BLITZER "VERY MUCH OF THE CONTROVERSIAL DDECEMBER 1975 BROOKINGS INSTITUTION DOCUMENT ON THE M E." QUOTING STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS, WRITER SAYS THAT "CARTER'S REMARKS, WHICH WERE WELL THOUGHT OUT IN ADVANCE,DID NOT MERELY REPRESENT THE VIEWS HELD BY NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI, BUT THOSE OF THE ENTIRE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE ADMINISTRATION. THE OFFICIALS AGREED THAT

CARTER'S STATEMENT WAS 'VERY IMPORTANT' IN OUTLINING THE U.S. STAND."

8. DAVAR'S BARNEA (U.S.): "ISRAELI SOURCES HAVE BEEN STUNNED BY THE FACT THAT CARTER HAS DECIDED TO SPEAK OUT AT THIS PRESENT STAGE ON THE COMPONENTS OF THE OVERALL ACCORD. IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT THE AMERICANS HAVE SINCE 1967 PRACTICALLY BACKED THE DEMAND FOR A TOTAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL, THE AMERICAN PRESIDENTS HAVE BEEN CAREFUL NOT TO COMMIT THEMSELVES PUBLICILLY ON THIS ISSUE. CARTER'S WORDS ALSO SHATTERED THE ATTEMPT TO INTERPRET HIS REMARKS ABOUT 'DEFENSIBLE BORDERS' AS INDICATING A MEETING UNCLASSIFIED

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OF THE MIND WITH THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT ON TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS. FOR AL PRACTICAL PURPOSES, CARTER HAS ADOPTED THE ARAB STAND ON THE SIZE OF ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL IN THE CONTEXT OF AN OVERALL AGREEMENT." AS TO THE REACTION OF THE RABIN PARTY, BARNEA SAYS THAT "WASHINGTON KNOWS FULL WELL THAT THE PARTY WAS NOT HAPPY WITH CARTER'S STATEMENT... KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCES SAID THAT THE ARABS HAVE PRESSURED THE U.S. GOVERNMENT INTO CLARIFYING ITS STAND ON 'DEFENSIBLE BORDERS'...CARTER'S AIDES, FOR THEIR PART, PRODDED THE PRESIDENT TO DETAIL THE TERRITORIAL ARRANGEMENTS STEMMING FROM A FINAL ACCORD."

9. IN A SEPARATE STORY BARNEA REVIEWS THE "BROOKINGS PAPER AND BRZEZINSKI'S ROLE IN CARTER'S DECISION." WRITER SAYS: "ISRAELIS WHO TOOK PART IN THE TALKS WITH PRESIDENT CARTER HAVE GAINED THE IMPRESSION THAT BRZEZINSKI IS THE MOVING FORCE BEHIND THOSE WHITE HOUSE DECISIONS UNFAVORABLE TO ISRAEL. BRZEZINSKI HAS TAKEN AN ACTIVE PART IN THE TALKS.." AS TO THE BROOKINGS PAPER, BARNEA SAYS THAT "ISRAEL HAD GREETED IT WITH GREAT RESERVATION, ALTHOUGH IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS ISRAELI OFFICIALS SAID IT MIGHT OFFER THE ONLY ROAD FOR AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT." MAARIV'S DISSENCHIK AND BEN (U.S.) ARE OF THE VIEW THAT "CARTER AGREES WITH THE 'ALLON PLAN'...HE AT LEAST KNOWS OF ITS EXISTENCE AND CONSIDERS IT AS A POSSIBLE COMPROMISE." WRITERS SUM UP THE REACTION OF U.S. MEDIA AS INDICATING THAT "WASHINGTON HAS CHANGED ITS POSITION, CARTER ADOPTED SOME OF ISRAEL'S ARGUMENTS."WRITERS ARGUE THAT "CARTER'S WORDS AR OPEN TO DIFFERENT INTERPRETATIONS. THIS EXPLAINS WHY BRZEZINSKI FOUND IT NECESSARY TO CLARIFY SOME OF THE POINTS CARTER MADE. IT MUST BE REMEMBERED THAT CARTER IS STILL NOT FAMILIAR ENOUGH WITH THE M E ISSUE, TENDS TO USE TERMS OF SPECIFIC MEANINGS WITHOUT BEING AWARE OF THEIR IMPLICATIONS."

10. YEDIOT'S KIVITY SAYS THAT IN HIS TELEPHONE CALL TO THE ISRAELI EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, BRZEZINSKI SOUGHT TO "PACIFY THE ISRAELIS...SAID THAT THE KEY SENTENCE IN CARTER'S STATEMENTS WAS THAT WHICH REFERRED TO AMERICA'S ROLE AS A GO-BETWEEN, OFFERING ITS GOOD SERVICES TO FINDING A SOLUTION TO THE M E UNCLASSIFIED

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CONFLICT. ALL THE REST WAS MERELY TOSSING AROUND OF IDEAS BY THE PRESIDENT. THEY DONT CONSTITUTE AN AMERICAN PLAN OR REFLECT AN AMERICAN STAND," BRZEZINSKI REPORTED TO HAVE SAID. KIVITY, TOO, REPORTS THAT THE U.S. MEDIA HAVE INTERPRETED CARTER'S REMARKS AS FAVORABLE TO ISRAEL.

11. EDITORIAL REACTION TO CARTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE:

12. YEDLOT: "TRAGEDY." (EDITORIAL WRITTEN BY CHIEF EDITOR ROSENBLUM.)

13. YEDLOT'S DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT EROL GUINEY: "CARTER'S IDEAS ARE OBVIOUSLY MORE PROGRESSIVE THAN THOSE OF THE ROGERS PLAN. HOWEVER, IT IS NO LESS OBVIOUS THAT THEY ARE WAY OFF FROM THE SOLUTION ISRAELI LEADERS AND THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THE ISRAELI PUBLIC HAVE IN MIND." AMONG "POSITIVE" POINTS IN THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS GUINEY LISTS "THE CONCEPT OF PEACE...,THE GRADUAL PROGRESS TOWARD OVERALL SETTLEMENT..., THE AWARENESS OF ISRAEL'S SECURITY REQUIREMENT IN TERRITORIAL TERMS..., THE UNMENTIONING OF THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM." AS TO THE "NEGATIVE" POINTS, THOSE ARE "THE TEMPORARY NATURE TF ISRAEL'S FUTURE SECURITY BORDERS..., THE STATIONING OF NON-ISRAELI FORCES OR INSTALLATIONS ALONG THOSE BORDERS." GUINEY FINDS THAT "A LARGE GAP SEPARATES THE ALLON PLAN FROM PRESIDENT CARTER'S ARRANGEMENTS. THE PRESIDENT ONLY CONFIRMED THE IDEAS PUT FORWARD BY ADVISER BREZIZINSKI IN HIS LAST VISIT TO ISRAEL...WHAT IS NOVEL IS THAT, UNLIKE HIS PREDECESSORS, CARTE SERVED AS HIS OWN SPOKESMAN. REALISTICALLY SPEAKING," SAYS GUINEY," BOTH WORLD OPINION AND AESTERN LEADERS REJECT THE ALLON PLA , NOT TO MENTION MORE ELABORATE PLANS. IT SEEMS, THEN, THAT CARTER HAS MADE AT LEAST AN ATTEMPT TO BRIDGE" ISRAEL'S VIES WITT THOSE OF THE REST OF THE WORLD.

14. MAARIV: "A DANGEROUS PLAN. CARTER IS AN HONEST MAN..MADE IT CLEAR HIS ADMINISTRATION STIIS TO THE ROGERS PLAN. THIS IS UNCLASSIFIED

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THE AUTHORITATIVE INTERPRETATION (SIC) OF HIS REMARKS ON 'DEFENSIBLE BORDERS, AND THIS IS THE AMERICAN PLAN FOR SOLVING THE .-E CONFLICT. NEEDLESS TO SAY THAT THE AMERICAN PLAN DOES NOT SATISFY EVEN ISRAEL'S MINIMUM DEMANDS. FURTHERMORE, MAKING IT PUBLIC ON THE EVE OF RESUMED DIPLOMATIC MOMENTUM IN THE AREA CONTAINS GREAT DANGERS FOR THE VERY CHANCES OF NEGOTIATIONS. THE CARTER PLAN RISKS ENCOURAGING ARAB INFLEXIBILITY."

15. HA'ARETZ: "THE U.S. SETS THE DIRECTION FOR AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT...CARTER MEETS ISRAEL HALF-WAY ON ONE VERY IMPORTANT POINT, THAT OF 'THE CONCEPT OF PEACE.' HIS PUBLIC MENTIO OF 'DEFENSIBLE BORDERS' CAN'T BE SILENCED OR MADE TO FORGET..."

16. HA'ARETZ'S LEADING COLUMNIST YOEL MARCUS SAYS HE IS "CONTENT WITH THREE PRELIMINARY IMPRESSIONS: THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION SEES IN RABIN ITS MOST IMPORTANT ASSET IN ISRAEL'S POLITICAL LIFE, IS WILLING TO HELP HIM CONSOLIDATE HIS POSITION, WIN THE ELECTIONS: THE M-E TOPS THE ADMINISTRATION'S PRIORITY LIST, NO STALEMATES WOULD BE ALLOWED TO DEVELOP; SO FAR THE ADMINISTRATION HAS NOT MADE UP ITS MIND ON HOW TO TACKLE THE M-E PROLBEM". IN CONCLUSION, MARCUS WARNS AGAINST BEING "BLINDED BY THE PRESIDENT'S KIND WORDS, WATCH FOR THE OTHER HAND WHICH... MAY BE HOLDING A STICK."

16. POST: "NEITHER THE CHEERFUL AMBIANCE ON THE WHITE HOUSE BANQUETING HALL, NOR THE PRE-ELECTION EXCITEMENT BACK HOME, SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO BLUR THE HARD REALITIES OF THE MONTHS AHEAD. PREMIER RABIN SHOULD BE CONVINCED NOW...OF THE EARNESTNESS OF WASHINGTON'S DESIRE AND INTENT TO RE-LAUNCH THE GENEVA NEGOTIATION PROCESS AND THE PROCESS OF TERRITORIAL COMPROMISE AS MR. CARTER MADE CLEAR IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE. IF MR. CARTER DID NOT ASK RABIN THE NINE-YEAR-OLD QUESTION WHICH LYNDON JOHNSON ASKED LEVI ESHKOL, 'WHAT KIND OF ISRAEL DO YOU WANT, MR. PREMIER?' HE APPARENTLY GAVE RABIN NOTICE THAT THE QUESTION WILL BE POSED IN THE MONTHS AHEAD."  
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17. POST'S DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT CONCLUDES HIS COMMENTARY BY SAYING THAT CARTER'S "STATEMENT YESTERDAY AMOUNTED IN EFFECT TO A DETAILED BLUEPRINT OF HOW HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE EVENTS SHAPING UP IN THIS REGION IN THE YEARS AHEAD. AS SUCH IT MARKS A WATERSHED IN THE HISTORY OF WASHINGTON'S DIPLOMATIC INVOLGEMENT IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE AREA."

18. DAVAR: "CARTER'S REMARKS...SHOULD NOT SURPRISE US. THE FACT THAT WASHINGTON SEES ISRAEL'S FINAL BORDERS AS CLOSE TO THEI2967 ONES IS NOT A NEW ONE, MUST NOT STAND IN TTE WAY OF BILATERAL DIPLOMATIC COOPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING. IT IS HARD TO ASSUME THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, OR THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF, HAVE ALREADY DEFINED CLEAR LINES FOR DIPLOMATIC MOMENTUM IN THE AREA. THE OPTIONS CARTER MENTIONED YESTERDAY IN PUBLIC LEAVE A LOT OF ROOM FOR DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY..."

19. IN NEWS COVERAGE:

20. REPLYING TO A MOTION FOR THE AGENDA BY THE LIKUD'S MOSHE ARENS, FONMIN ALLON REPORTEDLY SAID THAT ISRAEL AND THE U.S. HAVE SET A JOINT WORKING TEAM TO STUDY ISRAELI PLANS TO EXPORT WEAPONS SYSTEMS MANUFACTURED HERE WHICH CONTAIN U.S.-MADE COMPONENTS. PRESS REPORTS THAT ALLOW ALSO SAID ISRAEL COULD DO WITHOUT THE CONCUSSION BOMBS REFUSED HER BY THE U.S. ZEDIOT HEADLINES STORY: "ALLON DIFFERS WITH THE MILITARY."

21. POST REPORTS THAT FONMIN ALLON YESERDAY CRITICIZED IN

THE KNESSET THE U.S. CONSUL-GENERAL IN JERUSALEM FOR HIS  
"PROMISE TO INTERVENE ON BEHALF OF 400 HUNGER-STRIKING ARAB  
SECURITY PRISONERS." (SEE SEPTEL.  
MOSS

UNQUOTE VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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